	DESCRIPTION							
CONDITION		•		(Check One)				
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The Francis Land House, known in recent years as Rose Hall, stands on an open tract about 200 yards south of the highly commercialized Virginia Beach Boulevard. In front of the house are several large trees and the remnants of a garden.

The house is a five-bay, one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed building set on a high basement. Its walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond with rubbed and gauged jack arches. At each end are brick interior end chimneys with corbeled caps. All of the windows have been widened several inches. They and the dormers now have architrave frames and six-over-six sash. A modillion cornice, pedimented door hood, paneled shutters, and a Chinese balustrade on the early-twentieth-century stoop are all products of a recent restoration by a former owner, Colin Studds.

Rose Hall has a central-passage, double-pile plan with front rooms approximately twice as deep as the rear rooms. The present stair was added in the restoration and replaces one that formerly rose from the southeast room. The northwest room has raised-panel wainscoting all around with a single panel per wall unit and one large overmantel panel above the architrave fire place surround.

The northeast parlor is decorated in a late-eighteenth-century style. A chair rail, light molded cornice and baseboard are carried around the walls. The highlight of the room is a Neo-classical mantel with flat-paneled piers tapering toward their bases and supporting an entablature consisting of a frieze with a central tablet, a dentil cornice, and a shelf. The whole is enriched by urns on the entablature blocks and garlands on the piers. This is probably a recent restoration.

The doors throughout the first floor are hung in architrave frames on new HL hinges. They are of the six-panel, raised-panel variety.

The second floor did not receive much restoration and has plain, mid-nine-teenth-century trim. The basement has been altered, but retains an original fireplace and some early brick tiles. There have been numerous twentieth-century brick and frame accretions at the rear, the result of the building's recent use as a dress shop.

In March, 1975, an arsonist set several small fires in the back rooms of the house. Damage from these was confined to a small area and was not serious.

PERIOD (Check One or More as A	(ppropriate)		
Pre-Calumbian!	[] 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropria	te)	
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Conservation	Music	Transportation	

The Francis Land House, more recently known as Rose Hall, stands on one of the few open tracts along the heavily commercialized section of Virginia Beach Boulevard. The large, gambrel-roofed brick house is a good example of a substantial rural dwelling of the mid-eighteenth-century and one of a small, rapidly-diminishing group of colonial buildings in the city of Virginia Beach. The gambrel roof was a form much favored in the area, being employed on the majority of its eighteenth-century farmhouses.

The Lands were among the earliest settlers in the Lynnhaven River section of the former Princess Anne County. A Francis Land was mentioned in a deed in 1643, and in 1647 was listed as a Church Warden for Lynnhaven Parish.

A descendant, Francis Thoroughgood Land, the probable builder of the house, was an important eighteenth-century resident of the county. He appears as a vestryman of Lynnhaven Parish in the 1750s and as a County Court member in 1775. Three years later, Land was appointed to take the list of tithables for the Lower Western Shore (of the Lynnhaven River) area of Princess Anne County. A large property owner, Francis T. Land owned 700 acres of land and nineteen slaves in 1782.

A son, Francis M. Land, continued to maintain the plantation—he owned 700 acres and sixteen slaves in 1811. The property was divided between his two daughters when he died, the "home tract" with 300 acres going to his daughter Mary E. Land and her husband John N. Walke.

The house has had several owners since it left the original family. Most recently it was used as a dress shop, but the property was purchased by a developer in February, 1975, and its fate is uncertain.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Form 10-200 a (July 1969)

(Number all entries).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

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